

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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P R 122159Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

INFO DOD

JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203106

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, AR

SUBJECT: MILITARY MISSIONS IN ARGENTINA

REF: (A) BA 7326, (B) USDAO BUENOS AIRES 041950Z OCT 73,

(C) COMUSMILGP 042330Z OCT 73

1. WE SHARE EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES ARE A MAJOR POLITICAL FORCE WITH WHOM WE WANT TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SUCH CHANGES IN MILGP AS MAY BE DESIRED BY THE GOA. CONTINUATION OF THE MILGP IN ARGENTINA IN WHOLE OR IN PART IS A MATTER WHICH THE GOA MUST DECIDE IN THE LIGHT OF ITS OWN INTERESTS AND NEEDS.

2. UITH RESPECT TO THREE ALTERNATIVES MENTIONED IN REF A, THESE SEEM TO BE LOGICAL SEQUENCE OF SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE WORKED OUT ONCE WE KNOW GOA INTENTIONS. IN
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ANY EVENT PRECISE CHAIN OF COMMAND, ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGE-

MENTS, AND STATUS OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE EXAMINED CAREFULLY IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT THE GOA DECIDES WITH RESPECT TO THE MILGP.

3. IF THE EMBASSY IS APPROACHED ABOUT CHANGES IN THE STATUS OF THE MILGP, YOU SHOULD INDICATE:

(A) THE MILGP IS IN ARGENTINA AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOA TO ASSIST THE ARMED FORCES AS THEY DESIRE. MILGP WISHES TO BE AS HELPFUL AS IT CAN.

(B) IF THE GOA CONSIDERS MODIFICATIONS IN THE COMPOSITION AND STATUS OF THE MILGP NECESSARY, THE EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS THESE WITH APPROPRIATE GOA OFFICIALS AFTER CONSULTATION WITH WASHINGTON.

4. DEPARTMENT AND DOD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS TO KEEP US ABREAST OF DISCUSSION GOING ON IN ARMED FORCES ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE MILGP. WE ARE FOLLOWING THIS DEBATE WITH GREAT INTEREST AND STAND READY TO ASSIST YOU ONCE THE ARGENTINES HAVE DECIDED WHAT THEIR NEEDS VIS-A-VIS THE MILGP ARE. OUR BEST POSTURE AT THIS STAGE OF INTERNAL ARGENTINE SERVICE DISCUSSIONS IS TO AVOID BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE DEBATE OR GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE ADVOCATING ANY PARTICULAR FORMULA FOR HANDLING THE MILGP'S FUTURE. KISSINGER

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